DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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CONTROL:

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 4726
INFO RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 6194
RUESAL/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 1960
BT
CLASS STATE 043584

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E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: CASC, IO, ES, PINS, PINT, ASEC, SO

SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE OF JOHN J. SULLIVAN

REF: USUN NEW YORK 00492

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DEPT'S RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. JOHN J. SULLIVAN IN EL SALVADOR. HOPEFULLY THE INFORMATION WILL ASSIST YOUR OFFICE IN REPLYING TO INQUIRIES ON THIS CASE.

2. "ACCORDING TO INFORMATION DEVELOPED SO FAR IN THIS CASE, WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT MR. SULLIVAN TRAVELED TO EL SALVADOR ON DECEMBER 28, 1980, ON BOARD TACA AIRLINES AND CHECKED INTO THE SAN SALVADOR SHERATON HOTEL THE SAME DAY. THE EMBASSY FIRST BECAME AWARE OF THE POSSIBLE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. SULLIVAN LATE SUNDAY NIGHT, JANUARY 4, WHEN THE SHERATON HOTEL MANAGER, MR. PETER DUMAS, REQUESTED COLONEL BOSCH, THE EMBASSY'S DEFENSE ATTACHE WHO WAS RESIDING AT THAT TIME IN THE HOTEL, TO GO TO MR. SULLIVAN'S ROOM TO LOOK AT HIS EFFECTS. A HOTEL MAID HAD APPARENTLY ALERTED MR. DUMAS TO THE FACT THAT MR. SULLIVAN HAD NOT BEEN USING HIS ROOM. AFTER INSPECTING MR. SULLIVAN'S ROOM, COLONEL BOSCH TELEPHONED MR. HOWARD LANE, THE EMBASSY'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER AT 11:30 P.M. TO ASK IF HE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT MR. SULLIVAN. THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER WAS CALLED SINCE IT WAS APPARENT TO COLONEL BOSCH FROM THE EFFECTS IN THE ROOM AND FROM HIS CONVERSATION WITH MR. DUMAS THAT MR. SULLIVAN WAS A JOURNALIST. MR. LANE KNEW NOTHING OF MR. SULLLIVAN AND TOLD COLONEL BOSCH THAT HE WOULD GO TO THE PRESS SECRETARY IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE THE FOLLOWING MORNING, JANUARY 5, TO INQUIRE ABOUT HIM. IN ADDITION, MR. LANE CONTACTED SALVADORAN PRESS OFFICIALS ON JANUARY 5 AND THEY IN TURN MADE INQUIRIES ABOUT MR. SULLIVAN WITH THE IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS. MR. LANE SPENT MOST OF THE DAY TRYING TO FIND SOME CLUE TO MR. SULLLIVAN'S WHEREABOUTS.

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REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE